

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 4, 2002 LB 1003, 1023

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: The amendment is adopted. I raise the call.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment I have, Senator Schrock. Senator, I have AM3119 with a note that you'd like to withdraw and substitute AM3544. (Legislative Journal page 1419.)

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: It is requested for a substitution. Any objection? So ordered.

CLERK: Senator Schrock, AM3544.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, what I am attempting to do here is amend the other committee priority bill into LB 1003. It's called the Water Task Force. Some of you have heard quite a little about it. It did pass out of committee with a 7-0 vote and it also has a provision in it that would allow the urban areas to use Soil and Water Conservation Fund money from NRDs for construction purposes. I would tell my rural colleagues that this bill does not take out a...any money out of your NRDs. It's money that's already allocated to urban NRDs, and so it's not a shift in any money. It just allows our urban areas to use some of the Soil and Water Conservation Fund to control erosion when construction takes place and runoff. I want to talk about the Water Task Force. In consultation with Roger Patterson, Department of Natural Resources, last summer, I'm concerned about the water policy in the state of Nebraska as it affects irrigation, and so I introduced this bill, LB 1023. Probably if you live east of Grand Island, this may not be a big issue, but as you go west, our water problems seem to get larger. If you are from western Nebraska, you've heard the issue of Pumpkin Creek. You've heard about our lawsuits with Wyoming, which has been settled. You've heard about our lawsuits with Kansas, and you've heard about conflicts on water quantity between surface water and ground water. This task force will be made up of 49 people appointed by the Governor, and I gave you a handout that explains what the task force...the makeup of the task force. It is, I think, quite heavily loaded with irrigators, but they are the users of the vast quantity of water in our state. There's been discussion about surface water